

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /100 W
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R 071131Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5955

INFO AMEMBASSKSALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASP RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN

UNCLAS NVUAKCHOTT 1635

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, MR, AG

SUBJ: MAURITANIA CASTIGATES ALGERIA AT OAU SESSION

1. MAURITANIAN FOREIGN NNN ITER HAMD I OULD MOUKNASS TOOK ALGERIA TO TASK AT RECENT OAU MEETING FOR ALGERIAN "INVASION" OF MAURITANIA. FULL TEXT OF MOUKNASS' COMDENMATION OF ALGERIA BEXE JULY 2 OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS' MEETING WAS PRINTED IN MAURITANIAN PRESS. HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOW.

2. MOUKNASS REFERRED TO RECENT POLISARIO ATTACKS INSIDE MAURITANIA AS "A NEW, SERIOUS MILITARY AGGRESSION OF EXCEPTIONAL GRAVITY LAUNCHED FROM ALGERIAN SOIL BY ARMED BANDS RECRUITED, TRAINEEYN ORGANIZED, AND FINANCED BY ALGERIAN LEADERS AND WHICH WAS COMPOSED ESSENTIALLY OF MAURITANIAN MERCENARIES AND ALGERIAN CITIZENS." MUUKNASS ARGUED THAT GOAL OF ARMED BANDS WAS "TNJ OVERTHROW MAURITANIAN GOVERNMENT AND TO INSTALL NEW REGIME IN PAY OF ALGIERS". MOUKNASS SAID HE SEES
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"NO REAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR OF

ALGERIAN LEADERS VIS-A-VIS MAURITANIA AND EQUALLY
CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR OF SPINOLA VIS-A-VIS PROUD GUINEAN
PEOPLE DURING SHAMEFUL EXPEDITION WHICH WAS AIMED AT
ASSASSINATING PRESIDENT AHMED SEKOU TOURE AND VIOLENTLY
OVERTHROWING HIS REGIME." MOUKNASS THEN NOTED THAT "NO
RESOLUTION OF ANY KIND WHATSOEVER, INTERNATIONAL OR
REGIONAL, HAS MANDATED ALGZDIAN GOVERNMENT TO SETTLE
REGIONAL PROBLEMS IN ITS WAYS AND HAS NOT CONFERRED TO
IT THE ROLE OF POLICEMAN IN THIS REGION".

3. MOUKNASS ALSO TOOK OPPORTUNITY OF COUNCIL OF
MINISTERS' SESSION TO RELEASE NAMES OF ALLEGED ALGERIAN
OFFICERS WHO TOOK PART IN JUNE ATTACKS INSIDE MAURITANIA
AND WHO WERE SKXSEQUENTLY TAKEN PRISONER. NAMES INCLUDED LT.
BECHIR MOHAMED RACHID (SERIAL NUMBER 3747, GROUP OF EL
BEDER, ALGERIAN UNIT NO. 169), SUB-LT. AHMED OUMOU,
SUB-LT. EL ARBI M'BARECK, SUB-LT. MOHAMED SAID KAZOUNI,
SUB-LT. ABEID, ST-LT. BODI SAID, AND SUB-LT. BRAHIM
AHMED MAHMOUD. MOUKNASS THEN PROPOSED THAT COMMISSION
REPRESENTING DIFFERENT AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS AS WELL
AS OAU OFFICE OF SECRETARY GENERAL VISIT MAURITANIA
FOR PURPOSE OF QUESTIONING PRISONERS ABOUT THEIR
NATIONALITYJM BASE FROM WHICH THEY BEGAN ATTACK
ORIGIN OF THEIR ARMS AND EQUIPMENT, AND OBJECTIVE OF
THEIR OPERATION.

HANDYSIDE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, INVASIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NOUAKC01635
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760261-0728
From: NOUAKCHOTT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760784/aaaacvpz.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: schwenja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 FEB 2004 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <09 AUG 2004 by schwenja>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAURITANIA CASTIGATES ALGERIA AT OAU SESSION
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, MR, AG, OAU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006